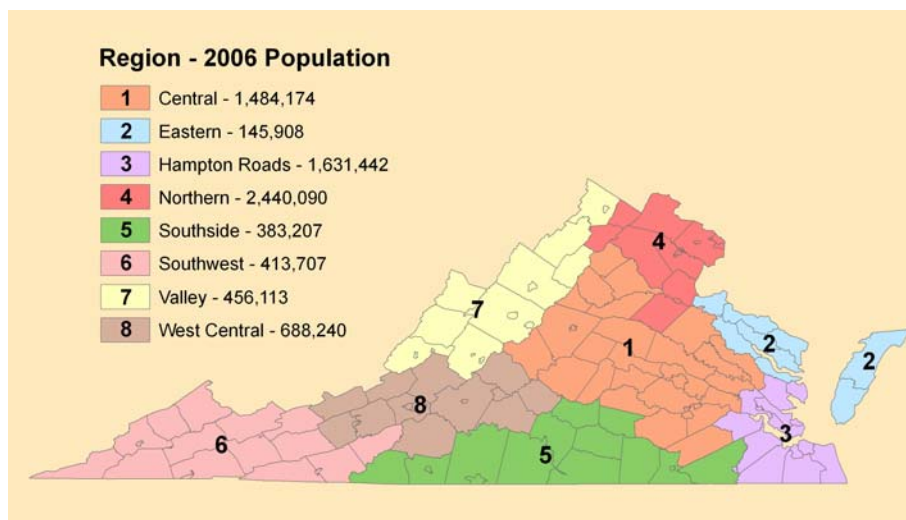




Regional Crime Trends in Virginia, 2002-2006

What are the violent, property and drug crime trends in different regions of Virginia and how does each regional trend compare to Virginia overall? The eight regions discussed here were defined by the Council On Virginia's Future (<http://www.future.virginia.gov/index.php>) based on geographic, economic and social proximity.



Crime rates are reported here in Uniform Crime Reporting summary format where the single most serious offense in a criminal incident is counted according to the following hierarchy: murder, forcible rape, robbery, aggravated assault, burglary, larceny, motor vehicle theft.

Violent Crime Rates

Violent crimes are murder, forcible rape, robbery and aggravated assault. The violent crime rate is the total number of violent crimes reported per 100,000 population.

Region	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1-Year Change 2005 to 2006	5-Year Change
Hampton Roads	474.8	439.2	436.5	482.5	469.4	-2.7%	-1.1%
Central	387.5	359.4	381.5	369.0	347.9	-5.7%	-10.2%
West Central	219.2	239.2	276.7	296.8	307.5	3.6%	40.3%
Virginia	288.0	270.7	272.2	285.2	281.1	-1.4%	-2.4%
Southside	296.0	283.5	245.7	257.9	234.9	-8.9%	-20.6%
Southwest	169.3	176.3	197.9	184.8	191.9	3.9%	13.4%
Eastern	186.0	151.9	139.1	180.3	175.5	-2.7%	-5.7%
Valley	174.3	145.6	153.5	148.8	159.8	7.4%	-8.3%
Northern	142.4	140.8	124.6	135.6	153.2	13.0%	7.6%

- From 2005 to 2006 the violent crime rate in Virginia declined by 1.4%. At the same time the violent crime rate declined in four of the 8 regions.



- From 2002 to 2006 the violent crime rate declined by 2.4% statewide. Five regions across the state had declining violent crime rates during the same 5-year period.
- The Hampton Roads region had the highest violent crime rate each year from 2002 to 2006. The Northern region had the lowest violent crime rate each year during the same time period.
- The West Central region had the largest percent increase in violent crime rate from 2002 to 2006 (40.3%). The increase in violent crime rate in the West Central region was driven by increases in the numbers of robberies and aggravated assaults.
- The Southside region had the largest 5-year percent decrease in violent crime rate, decreasing 20.6%.

Property Crime Rates

Property crimes are burglary, larceny and motor vehicle theft. The property crime rate is the total number of property crimes reported per 100,000 population.

Region	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1-Year Change 2005 to 2006	5-Year Change
Hampton Roads	4030.2	3671.2	3671.9	3739.0	3430.2	-8.3%	-14.9%
Central	3416.8	3107.1	3208.4	3186.7	2816.4	-11.6%	-17.6%
West Central	1927.1	2278.5	2470.4	2710.1	2464.3	-9.1%	27.9%
Virginia	2808.1	2640.3	2629.8	2643.5	2462.3	-6.9%	-12.3%
Southwest	1999.5	2133.7	2134.8	2214.8	2287.6	3.3%	14.4%
Southside	2031.2	2158.8	2149.2	2125.1	2096.5	-1.3%	3.2%
Valley	1861.0	1908.1	1887.6	1791.1	1892.5	5.7%	1.7%
Northern	2144.3	2026.7	1837.6	1771.5	1780.9	0.5%	-17.0%
Eastern	1651.8	1510.7	1581.9	1686.9	1566.7	-7.1%	-5.1%

- The property crime rate in Virginia decreased 6.9% from 2005 to 2006. The rate of property crime decreased in 5 of the 8 regions during this time.
- From 2002 to 2006 the property crime rate in Virginia decreased by 12.3%. Four regions experienced declines in property crime rates during the same 5-year period.
- The Hampton Roads region had the highest property crime rate each year from 2002 to 2006, though the property crime rate has declined in this region. The Eastern region had the lowest property crime rate each year from 2002 to 2006.
- The Central region had the second-highest property crime rate in each year from 2002 to 2006 and also had the largest percent decrease in property crime rate during the 5-year period (17.6% decrease).
- The West Central region had the largest 5-year percent increase in property crime rate (27.9%).



Drug Arrest Rates

The drug arrest rate is the number of arrests reported for drug/narcotics violations per 100,000 population. It should be noted that changes in drug arrest rates can reflect changes in anti-drug resources and strategies and not necessarily changes in the prevalence of a drug.

Region	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	1-Year Change 2005 to 2006	5-Year Change
Hampton Roads	632.3	627.9	672.7	715.4	773.4	8.1%	22.3%
West Central	293.4	341.8	463.4	587.6	572.5	-2.6%	95.1%
Central	484.3	478.5	514.2	562.9	569.0	1.1%	17.5%
Virginia	427.7	434.8	440.6	463.3	505.5	9.1%	18.2%
Valley	436.5	502.1	462.1	461.7	482.9	4.6%	10.6%
Southwest	292.1	279.5	431.6	401.7	478.4	19.1%	63.8%
Eastern	394.4	348.8	348.7	329.0	425.5	29.4%	7.9%
Southside	308.5	356.0	267.9	300.5	326.9	8.8%	6.0%
Northern	251.8	251.1	236.8	241.3	262.4	8.7%	4.2%

- The drug arrest rate increased in every region between 2002 and 2006. The drug arrest rate in the West Central region has almost doubled since 2002 (increase of 95.1%). The increase in the West Central region was driven by increases in the number of arrests for crack cocaine and marijuana.
- The drug arrest rate in the Southwest region increased 63.8% from 2002 to 2006. Increased numbers of arrests for marijuana and amphetamine/methamphetamine drove the 5-year increase in drug arrest rate in the Southwest region from 2002 to 2006.

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Data Sources:

The Council on Virginia's Future, <http://www.future.virginia.gov/index.php>

Incident-Based Reporting System electronic crime incident data files from the Virginia Department of State Police, converted to Uniform Crime Reporting summary format by DCJS Research Center

Provisional 2006 population estimates from Weldon Cooper Center for Public Service, University of Virginia